

THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

Cutting Edge transfers authority to 1/7



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors stood at attention as 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, known as Cutting Edge, handed over the responsibilities for their area of operations in Regional Command (Southwest) to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, known as First Team, during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 15. This was 3rd Bn., 7th Marines', third and final deployment to Afghanistan and concludes their participation in Operation Enduring Freedom. With five prior deployments to Iraq, the battalion has more consecutive combat deployments than any other infantry battalion in the Marine Corps. [Click here to read more](#)

Infantrymen conduct Mission Rehearsal Exercise at FOB Juno

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – A vehicle convoy stirred the air with dust as Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, departed Camp Leatherneck, March 13. As the battalion prepared to take control over the battlespace controlled by 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the company conducted a partnered Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Forward Operating Base Juno with Afghan National Security Forces to prepare themselves for potential future operations. [Click here to read more](#)



Division's own earns Camp Pendleton Female Athlete of the Year, runner up in Marine Corps award



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – A competitive spirit leads many people to join the Marine Corps. That same spirit pushes other Marines to separate themselves from their peers. This spirit is what drives one Marine to train two or three times each day, and compete at every level of her career. It is why 1st Lt. Thuymi Dinh is being recognized as Camp Pendleton's Female Athlete of the Year, and why the Marines that know her aren't surprised she's earned the award. [Click here to read more](#)

MLG supplies 'MEF FWD' during Command Post Exercise 1



CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group hit the field to fine-tune the process of providing support to ground units during Command Post Exercise 1 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 10-14, 2014, in preparation for the fast-approaching Operation Desert Scimitar 2014. The CPX allowed 1st MLG Major Subordinate Element headquarters and its independent battalions to establish their combat operation centers in order to facilitate communications in a field environment. [Click here to read more](#)

Oklahoma natives, Marine brothers reunite in Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – After being separated for more than a year and a half, two brothers were reunited while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lance Cpl. Donald Rucker, a maintenance administration clerk with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, Marine Aircraft Group - Afghanistan, Regional Command (Southwest), and his brother, Lance Cpl. Ian Smith, a mortarman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, RC(SW), reconnected with one another aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 11. [Click here to read more](#)



1/7 conducts medical training exercise in Afghanistan



Marines and Navy corpsmen with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, evacuate a simulated casualty during a training drill aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 14, 2014. The drill was designed to ensure accountability of all personnel and gear while practicing movement to muster locations in the event of an emergency. The battalion had Navy corpsmen with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, evaluate the service members as they reacted to the situation. "I think it was vital to establish a baseline of our reactions," said Petty Officer 1st Class Jeson Hall, a corpsman with 1st Bn., 7th Marines, and a native of Florence, Ala.

"Establishing a baseline give us measures for success so we can continue to improve during future drills." [Click here to view more](#)

Fighting Fifth commanding officer receives honorable mention in essay contest



Major Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, left, commanding general, 1st Marine Division and Sgt. Maj. (retired) Frank Pulley, West Coast area representative of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, congratulates Col. Jason Bohm, commanding officer, 5th Marine Regiment, for his honorable mention in the Gen. Robert E. Hogaboom Leadership Writing Contest aboard Camp San Mateo, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 19, 2014. Bohm, a native of Oyster Bay, N.Y., wrote about his experience of leading Marines during combat. The contest honors the most original approach to the aspects of leadership. [Click here to view more](#)

Award presented to 'Darkside' Marine



Lt. Col. Jeff Kenney, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, awards 1st. Sgt. Jack L. Shumate, company first sergeant, I Co., 3/4, a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V" for valor device at their bachelors' enlisted quarters' courtyard, March 13, 2014. [Click here to view more](#)